

These 3.7 million people were pushed into poverty and left to suffer the consequences of a recession they did not create.

As a result, in 2009, a total of 43.6 million people had incomes below the poverty line—more than at any time since we began tracking this measure in 1959—9 years before Dr. King's death.

Within that figure, one in every five children in this country lived in poverty in this nation in 2009. This is a staggering and shameful figure.

Mr. Speaker, far too many Americans are being subjected to the most crippling segregation of all: the segregation from hope that is the inevitable result of poverty.

On the anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, we recall that he was struck down in Memphis while he was supporting a sanitation union's struggle for a living wage.

Dr. King understood that the struggle of workers to win their rights is part of the continuing struggle of labor for opportunity.

More than 40 years after Dr. King's death, this struggle continues—and the victories won years ago are at risk perhaps as never before.

Many are seeking to tear down American workers' most fundamental rights and to undo the advances that paved the paths that have carried so many to the middle class.

As we see that struggle unfold, I urge us to remember what we are fighting for.

As Dr. King often observed, the civil rights objectives of our time are not limited to the struggles of Black people or of any minority group.

Rather, we are engaged in a peaceful struggle to advance the human and civil rights of ALL AMERICANS.

Our mission—Dr. King's vision transported into our time—is to transform the “human rights” of all Americans into civil rights protected by law.

We are fighting, as our colleague and friend Congressman JOHN LEWIS has observed, for the rights that will enable all Americans to have jobs that provide them “the opportunity to realize their full potential as individual people.”

At a time when many low-wage jobs do not pay enough to enable a family to make ends meet, and at a time when people can work 40 or even 50 hours a week and still fall behind, we honor Dr. King's struggle by continuing his fight to create a just society where every person can fulfill the potential God has given to them.

And we continue that fight by ensuring that the hard-won rights of working Americans are seen as inviolable and as essential to the success of our entire nation.

I urge every American to join this fight.

RECOGNIZING THE 2010–2011 CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR 500 HOURS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY—ERIC PARKER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure and privilege to inform the Members of the United States House of Rep-

resentatives that the students of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council, CYAC, from the Third District of Texas have completed a total of 500 community service hours, fulfilling and far-surpassing the requirements of their assigned CYAC in the Community service project.

This year 46 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 10 through 12 made their voices heard by joining CYAC. As the Third District's young ambassadors to Congress, these bright high school students met with me on a quarterly basis to discuss current events and public policy. These impressive young people recognize an important truth: the heart of public service is found when giving back to the community. CYAC students volunteered their time and talents with over 30 organizations including Adopt-A-Highway, Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Teen Court, and the USO, to name a few. As one student shared, “CYAC in the Community has allowed me to realize my calling to serve those in the U.S. Armed Forces.” I am beyond thrilled that CYAC has helped students unleash their full potential and chase their dreams.

President George H.W. Bush once said, “A volunteer is a person who can see what others cannot see; who can feel what most do not feel. Often, such gifted persons do not think of themselves as volunteers, but as citizens—citizens in the fullest sense: partners in civilization.”

With this statement as a benchmark, I am proud to congratulate the members of the 2010–2011 Congressional Youth Advisory Council for showing themselves to be outstanding young citizens of this nation. It is my privilege to submit summaries of their work to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to be preserved for posterity and antiquity. To these young public servants, thank you, and keep up the great work! I salute you!

A copy of each submitted student summary follows:

As a representative for Sam Johnson's CYAC of the 2010–2011 year I decided to volunteer in my community by participating with Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a global, non-profit organization that seeks to shelter the homeless and poor by building comfortable homes with the help of volunteers from the surrounding community. I volunteered several hours from what would have been just another “lazy” Saturday afternoon to go to Wylie in an effort to help the organization with building a home. The organizers were very friendly and helpful in pointing me in the right direction and very clear and concise on instructions for the work that I would be tasked with. I found a hands-on approach to be the best way to contribute to my community and learned a lot from one evening with fellow charity workers. I was able to make a difference in someone's life by helping build shelter and contributing to society. I learned that community service is an overlooked part of life that when performed can cause a person to feel good in a way that can't be accomplished by common means. I look forward to working with Habit for Humanity again in the future.

—Eric Parker

CONGRATULATING THE MAROON GIANTS OF KALAMAZOO CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Maroon Giants of Kalamazoo Central High School on their second straight Michigan state championship win in men's basketball. These outstanding young men have worked hard for this accomplishment and have made their community very proud.

Winning a state championship is a remarkable achievement that few teams attain. Winning back-to-back championships is an incredible legacy that will live with Kalamazoo Central forever. The Maroon Giants and Coach Mike Thomas know what brought this second straight state title back to Kalamazoo—hard work. It was running that one extra sprint and shooting that extra free throw after practice that helped make the Maroon Giants champions. Nobody outworked the Giants, and nobody could beat them in the state tournament, and nobody had a greater following or more community support. The Giants truly lived up to their name on the court.

It is an honor to pay tribute to the entire Maroon Giants squad: Tyler Bell, Allie Buchanan, Tens Buchanan, TJ Buchanan, Jamaal Conger, Brandon Delk, Juwan Gamble, Lee Gardner, H'ian Hale, Quante Hill, JeRon Johnson, Mark Justice, Daquavion McCants-Wilson, De'tavia Moore, Darius Norman, Von Washington III, and Davarius Williams. I also want to recognize head coach Mike Thomas and assistant coaches Thomas Dillard, Anthony Stuckey, Matt Price, Brandon Williams, Tim Gleeson, Alan Lee and team manager Aminder Sohi. We salute all of you.

On behalf of all the residents of southwest Michigan, congratulations again to the Maroon Giants, Coach Thomas, and the entire Kalamazoo community—you are an inspiration to us all. It is Giant pride at its finest. Go Giants!

IN CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF MONSON'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2011

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the yearlong celebration of the town of Monson, Massachusetts' 250th anniversary. The town was founded by a small group of residents from Brimfield, Massachusetts, who petitioned for a town of their own. The first town meeting of Monson was held in 1760. When it was founded, Monson was a center for manufacturing in Massachusetts, with an abundance of mills powered by the water found in the nearby hills. Today, Monson is known primarily for their involvement in the arts, especially the theater and festivals.

To honor this historic occasion, the town of Monson held a yearlong celebration with different events held by members of the Monson Steering Committee and several non-profit organizations located in the town.

This yearlong celebration of the town's anniversary began in April 2010, and will conclude